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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,155	02/06/2008	Chi Wan Hui	0465-1506PUS1	6014
2252	7590	07/27/2010	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			KLING, CHARLES	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
	1711			
NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
07/27/2010	ELECTRONIC			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/564,155	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HUR, CHI WAN
	<b>Examiner</b> Charles W. Kling	<b>Art Unit</b> 1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2010.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 1 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 January 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement (PTO/GS/06)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04-04-06 and 07-02-10.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is the first action on the merits in response to most recent correspondence received 07-02-10.
2. Claims **1-21** are pending.

***Election/Restrictions***

3. Applicant's election with traverse of group I, claims **1-10**, in the reply filed on 06-03-10 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the structure at the edge of the hole to tightly engage the groove is a special technical feature.
4. This argument has been fully consider but is not persuasive.
5. This generic structure is not recited in the two independent claims. Instead, claim 1 recites a depressed portion to engage the groove while claim 11 recites a projected holding portion to engage the groove. These elements are distinct and are not common to the two independent claims. As such, they cannot be considered a special technical feature.
6. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.
7. Claims **11-21** are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

***Drawings***

8. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show "the push-in portion has a shape in conformity with the hole" as described in line 1 of page 2 of the specification. The push-in portion (element 8 of figure 2) is shown as a square, which is not in conformity with the rectangular hole (element 12 of figure 2). Similarly, the push-in portions (element 72 of figures 5, 7) are not shown "to have a shape the same with the hole" as described in lines 6-7 of page 9 and lines 3-4 of page 12 of the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d).

9. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "depressed portion further includes at least one holding portion" (lines 1-2 of claim 9) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). The figures and the specification disclose the depressed portion and the holding portion to be alternative embodiments (lines 8-11 of page 10) and do not disclose these features to be used together. No new matter should be entered.

10. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet,

and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Specification***

11. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: Claim 9 recites "the depressed portion further includes at least one holding portion"; the combination of these two features is not discussed in the specification. In fact, the specification refers to these two features in the alternative (lines 8-11 of page 10). No new matter should be entered.

12. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Numerous typographical errors exist in the specification. Those errors noticed by the examiner are listed below; the applicant is encouraged to review the specification for additional errors. Appropriate correction is required.

- a. Lines 1-2 of page 3; sentence is grammatically unclear
- b. Line 10 of page 3; word "ends" should not be plural

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- c. Line 15 of page 3; word "ends" should not be plural
  - d. Line 17 of page 3; word "one" should be inserted after "least"
  - e. Line 4 of page 7; word "ends" should not be plural
  - f. Line 13 of page 7; use and meaning of the term "vertical direction" is unclear
  - g. Line 20 of page 7, line 1 of page 8; meaning of the sentence is unclear
  - h. Line 13 of page 8; word "particularly" should be capitalized
  - i. Line 14 of page 8; the comma after word "compresses" should be removed
  - j. Line 10 of page 12; use and meaning of the phrase "removes application of pressure" is unclear
13. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

***Claim Objections***

14. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Word "ends" in line 3 should not be plural. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

15. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

16. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
17. With regard to claim 10: The limitation "the holding portion" is recited in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purposes of examination this claim element has been taken to mean "the at least one holding portion".

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

18. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

19. **The elements of the claims are anticipated, disclosed, and/or taught by the relevant prior art as cited in parenthesis and bold type.**

20. Claims 1, 4, 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by INADA ET AL. (JP 60-176693) (see attached English abstract).

21. With regard to claim 1: INADA ET AL. discloses a washing machine (**title**) that includes a power cord attachment member (**element 21 of figure 5**) with a circumferential groove; and a cord through-hole with panel ribs (corresponding to the depressed portion) (**element 22 of figure 5**) which fit into the groove of the attachment member (**as shown in figure 5**).

22. With regard to claim 4: INADA ET AL. discloses the attachment member (**element 21 of figure 5**) having a push-in portion held by the inner side of the panel and a sealing portion in close contact with the outer side of the panel (**inner push-in portion and outer sealing portion form the groove of the attachment member as shown in figure 5**).

23. With regard to claim 6: INADA ET AL. discloses the groove having a width greater than the thickness of the cabinet (**as shown in figure 5**).

24. With regard to claim 7: INADA ET AL. discloses the rib (**element 22 of figure 5**) of the cabinet panel to be step-shaped and oriented towards the inner side of the cabinet (**as shown in figure 5**).

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

25. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

26. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over INADA ET AL. in view of CHUDKOSKY ET AL. (US 6,200,155).

27. With regard to claim 2: INADA ET AL. does not appear to explicitly/expressly disclose the washing machine having a recess at a portion having the through-hole.

28. However, CHUDKOSKY ET AL. discloses a power cord connector assembly for an appliance (**title**) that includes a recessed area (**element 79 of figures 2-3, 5**) accommodating a power cord holding member (**element 25 of figure 1**).
29. At the time of the invention, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the washing machine of INADA ET AL. to include the recess of CHUDKOSKY ET AL., since the recess serves to maximize overall compactness and direct water away from the electrical inlet, as taught by CHUDKOSKY ET AL. (**lines 57-61 of column 1**).
30. With regard to claim 3: CHUDKOSKY ET AL. discloses the recess having a depth to accommodate the power cord holding member (**lines 21-25 of column 3, recess depth shown in figures 1-2**).
31. Claims 5, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over INADA ET AL. in view of GOODWIN (US 2,711,522).
32. With regard to claim 5: INADA ET AL. does not appear to explicitly/expressly disclose the push-in portion and hole to be rectangular.
33. However, GOODWIN discloses a panel mounted electrical plug connector (**title**) that includes a rectangular hole (**element 2 of figure 2**) and push-in portion (**rectangular push-in portion composed of elements 3, 11, 18 in figure 1**).
34. At the time of the invention, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the washing machine of INADA ET AL. to include the rectangular hole and push-in portion of GOODWIN, since the shape of the hole and

push-in portion would have been an obvious matter of design choice motivated by aesthetics or other design factors.

35. With regard to claim 8: INADA ET AL. does not appear to explicitly/expressly disclose the attachment member being formed of elastic material.

36. However, GOODWIN discloses the push-in portion of the connector being elastically deformed (**as shown in figure 6**).

37. At the time of the invention, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the washing machine of INADA ET AL. to include the elastic holding member of GOODWIN, since one of skill in the art at the time of the invention would have known that elastic rubber fittings are commonly used in the art to secure electrical wires or cords.

38. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over INADA ET AL. in view of COFFEY (US PG-Pub 2005/0250379).

39. With regard to claim 9: INADA ET AL. does not appear to explicitly/expressly disclose the depressed portion further including a holding portion.

40. However, COFFEY discloses a hole adaptor for receiving electrical couplers (**abstract**) that includes a depressed portion (**element 150 of figure 8**) with a holding portion (**element 152 of figure 8**).

41. At the time of the invention, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the washing machine of INADA ET AL. to include the depressed portion with holding portion of COFFEY, since one of skill in the art at the

time of the invention would have known that adding a holding portion to the depressed portion would provide holding redundancy and serve to further insure the retention of the power cord assembly.

**42.** With regard to claim 10: COFFEY discloses the holding portion (**element 152 of figure 8**) projected toward the inner side of a panel (**as shown in figure 9**).

#### *Conclusion*

**43.** The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. ITO ET AL. (JP 04-237980) is considered pertinent as it deals with a panel having holding portions (element 16 of figure 4).
- b. SAKATANI ET AL. (US 5,613,876) is considered pertinent as it deals with a panel having a depressed portion (element 13b of figure 1).
- c. HERR ET AL. (US 5,927,836) is considered pertinent as it deals with a recess for a fitting formed in the cabinet of an appliance.
- d. SUL (KR 2006085801) is considered pertinent as it directed to material that is similar to the instant invention.

**44.** Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHARLES W. KLING whose telephone number is 571-270-5524. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 - 4:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael E. Barr can be reached at 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Charles W. Kling/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1711

/Michael Barr/  
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